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APR 16 2004

THE PROCTER & GAMBLE COMPANY  
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DIVISION  
WINTON HILL TECHNICAL CENTER - BOX 161  
6110 CENTER HILL AVENUE  
CINCINNATI OH 45224

In re Application of :  
Ali A. Alwattari et al :  
Serial No.: 09/981,345 : PETITION DECISION  
Filed: October 17, 2001 :  
Attorney Docket No.: 8586 :

This is in response to the petition under 37 CFR 1.181, filed October 28, 2003, for withdrawal of abandonment of the above identified application based on filing of a timely reply. The delay in acting on this petition is regretted.

A review of the file history shows that the examiner mailed an Office action to applicants on March 12, 2003, setting a three month shortened statutory period for. Upon failure to receive a reply the application was held abandoned by Notice of Abandonment mailed October 14, 2003. Applicants state that a reply was filed June 25, 2003, including a request and fee for a one month extension of time, and provides evidence of Office receipt by means of an Office date stamped return postcard dated June 27, 2003. The reply has not been located and the copy provided with the petition will be used in lieu thereof. In view of the timely reply the Notice of Abandonment was mailed in error and is withdrawn and the application is restored to pending status with the mailing of this decision

The petition is **GRANTED**.

**The application will be forwarded to the examiner for further action.**

Should there be any questions about this decision please contact William R. Dixon, Jr., by letter addressed to Director, TC 1600, at the address listed above, or by telephone at 571-272-0519 or by facsimile sent to the general Office facsimile number 703-872-9306.

  
Bruce M. Kisliuk

Director, Technology Center 1600